

**Substance Abuse Services Commission
Meeting of January 14, 2015
Cross State Office Building Room 300
Augusta, Maine**

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Peter McCorison, Provider, Aroostook County, Chair for SASC
Ann Dorney, MD, Physician in Private Practice
Irene Laney, Clinician in Private Practice
Bill Lowenstein, Board of Dir. of Sexual Assault & Response Services
Scott Gagnon, Prevention, Healthy Androscoggin (phone)
Robert Rogers, Kennebec Behavioral Health

Members Absent/Excused:

Bob Creamer, Community Volunteer
Ann Giggey, Hope House
Tom Leonard, School Administrative Leader
Darren Ripley, MAAR
Diehl Snyder, MD

Sen. Colleen Lachowicz
Rep. Carol A. McElwee
Rep. Katherine Cassidy
Rep. Peter Stuckey

Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services:

N/A

Guests:

Raya Kouletsis, Coordinator, MAPSA
Erin Dunne, AdCare Maine, Recorder
Neill Miner, Director, AdCare Maine

**Substance Abuse Services Commission Meeting
January 14, 2015
Cross State Office Building, Room 300
Augusta, Maine**

JANUARY MINUTES

DRAFT Date:	January 20, 2015	SASC Approved:	
Signed: Recorded by: Neill Miner, AdCare Maine			

Meeting Convened: 9:00 A.M.

Adjourned: 10:20 AM

Meeting Convened: By Peter McCorison

Agenda:

- Introductions, Review Previous Meeting Minutes; Public Comment

New Business:

- Legislation Update, Raya Kouletsis, MAPSA
- SAMHS Update – Sheldon Wheeler, Acting Director, and Linda Frazier, Treatment Manager, SAMHS

Break

- Medication Disposal Box Service, Naloxone, Treatment Programs in the Jail
- Recruiting an Overdose Prevention Speaker

Old Business:

- Follow-up on the Medical Marijuana Program Presentation
- Requests to SAMHS
 - Request for a cost assessment of the impact of further decriminalization of marijuana
 - Request for expanded promotion of/reference to “Recovery”

Prepare Agenda Items for Next Meeting on January 14, 2015

Adjourn meeting 12:00

JANUARY 2015 SASC Meeting Summary

Peter McCorison, Chairperson

Introductions, Public Comment, and Meeting Minutes Review

Peter McCorison welcomed and thanked members and guests for coming to the meeting. Introductions were made. Peter asked if there were any public comments. No comments were offered.

Due to the lack of a quorum of the Commission members, review and revisions, if any, of the December meeting minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

N/A

I) NEW BUSINESS - January Agenda

A) Member General Comment:

Building on discussion at previous meetings, Ann Dorney referenced some topic areas that she thinks should be areas of focus for the Commission. Topics mentioned included medication disposal services, expanded access to Naloxone overdose prevention disposal kits, and access to and availability of treatment programs in the county jails. Other members supported, in particular, the focus on Naloxone.

Interest in the use of Naloxone is linked to the ongoing implementation of the bill passed during the last legislative session, making this medication available to enable emergent response to overdoses. It was noted that information is needed on the availability, use, and cost of naloxone kits. In addition, information is needed on the number and location of overdose incidents, including and especially those that do not result in death. It was observed that, based on information from Marci Sorg, gathering information about all overdose incidents is restricted by confidentiality rules.

Peter expressed interest in setting some goals for the new year, which would provide context for the refinement of requests for information and assistance from the Maine Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHS).

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

N/A

B) Maine SAMHS Updates:

Peter noted that neither Sheldon Wheeler, Director, nor another Maine SAMHS representative would be available to attend this meeting of the Commission. Consequently there would be no SAMHS updates at this meeting.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

N/A

C) Pending Legislation:

Raya Kouletsis, Coordinator of the Maine Alliance to Prevention Substance Abuse (MAPSA) presented a list of approximately 40 Legislative Documents (LD's), including numbers, titles, and initial sponsors that are currently listed on the Maine Legislature's website, to be processed this session. The list included proposed legislation related to marijuana, opioids, alcohol, and tobacco. The LDs are intended to bring forth a wide range of adjustments to Maine law. Most common areas of focus include changes in access to and availability of specific substances; and strategies to address negative consequences of misuse of selected substances.

The current list of LDs is expected to increase over the next several days.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

Raya will send her list to Peter to be disseminated to the Commission members.

II) OLD BUSINESS

A) Requests To Maine SAMHS:

It was noted that there are still some pending requests that have been submitted to Maine SAMHS. These include the requests for:

- a cost assessment of the impact of further decriminalization of marijuana, and
- expanded promotion of/reference to "Recovery"

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

Peter will check on the status of these requests, when and if the opportunity arises before the next meeting

B) Communications to Other Groups:

1) The DHHS Medical Marijuana Program:

Peter expressed thanks to Scott Gagnon for finalizing and submitting to the DHHS Medical Marijuana program, some questions that were prompted by the presentation by Marietta D'Agostino at the last Commission meeting. Marietta, who has been out on sick leave for several days, is expected to respond to the Commission as soon as she is available and able to do so.

2) The Maine Legislature's Human Services Committee:

Peter noted that the report and recommendations concerning access to Methadone were submitted on January 8th to the new leadership of the Human Services Committee.

3) The Governor's Office:

Peter noted that the Annual Report of the Commission has been completed and submitted to the Governor's Office, as required by Maine Law. Peter thanks SAMHS and its staff for their support in preparing this document.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

N/A

C) Membership Notes:

Ann Dorney has sent in her application and is waiting to hear on a response. Historically, this has been a lengthy process. However, the current administration has been especially timely in its response. Peter has left a message for one of the speakers from the Young People in Recovery (YPR) group, to see if she was planning to apply to be a member of the Commission, representing the college level sector. It was reported that Tom Leonard is planning to remain on the Commission, and considering applying to serve as a representative of the recovery sector. Mike Savage has resigned as a member of the group.

It was noted that, consistent with existing legislation, a member whose term has expired can remain on the Commission as a member until they are actually replaced by another person.

Maine House and Senate Leadership: Peter has connected with House and Senate leadership and requested names of legislators to be appointed as representatives to the Commission appointments. Peter is awaiting a response on these assignments.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable

Peter will continue to be in contact with the Commission's point of contact in the Governor's office, and the Senate and House Leadership.

D) Other Legislative Matters: Member Discussion

Peter noted that the Governor's office is expected to be submitting an LD regarding testing for impaired driving due to MJ use. It was also noted that it would be useful to have some detailed information from SAMHS in relation to the Governor's proposed budget. For example, there is apparently a proposal to eliminate MaineCare reimbursement for methadone treatment. Members were interested in whether treatment will continue to be required and available for TANF clients that do a drug test that comes back positive. They also wanted to know what the plan was for access to treatment for parents with children that are involved with the DHHS Child Welfare service system. Irene Laney noted that low-income mothers with children in this system who are referred to inpatient treatment services for a long period of time eventually lose their eligibility for MaineCare (and treatment reimbursement) because they are no longer directly caring for their children. Peter noted that the group needs to be sure to focus on proposed legislation that increases access to alcohol, due to the consequences of misuse (e.g., violent behavior, accidents, and associated health risks).

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable

N/A

E) Other:

Raya and Scott updated the group on their recent community awareness efforts in relation to marijuana. MAPSA's press conference about the risks of increased access was less well attended than the planners would have liked, due to the challenging weather. A panel of 4 people presented their messages: Scott Gagnon, Sheriff Liberty; David Ramsey, a parent; Tina Pettingill, from the Maine Public Health Association. Media coverage was provided by the Portland Press Herald; Channel 8 (which has posted some information on their website); and Maine public radio (MPBN), which did a brief interview with Scott Gagnon, re: edibles. Tina referenced that in Colorado, Emergency Room visits for 3-7 year olds has doubled within the last six months as a result of access to edibles. The purpose of the event was to enhance community understanding of the risk of marijuana, and not to lobby for specific action by lawmakers on any particular pending legislation.

Medication disposal: it was noted that the Maine DEA is interested in sustaining the prescription drug disposal services that have been funded and supported until recently by the national DEA. The next steps here include finalizing the ability to legally dispose of unused and unwanted medications in Maine (through Eco Maine) and then having the Maine DEA step up and facilitate periodic collection and disposal of medications that are now being brought to local law enforcement agencies, on a daily basis. Scott noted that increased options for disposal of "sharps" are also a need at this time. Peter indicated that he will connect informally with Roy McKinney at the Maine DEA, to see if there is any way in which the Commission can assist in re-establishing Maine's medication disposal services.

It was noted that there is an ongoing problem with opiate addiction, linked to the prescribing of medications to which some patients ultimately become addicted. It was asked whether the commission can and should partner with the Maine Medical Association to support even stronger/safer prescribing practices.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable

Peter indicated that he will connect informally with Roy McKinney at the Maine DEA, to see if there is any way in which the Commission can assist to reestablishing Maine's medication disposal services.

F) Code of Ethics: Peter handed out copies of the Code of Ethics for the members in the room to sign.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable

N/A

The Agenda for the February Meeting (Preliminary Plan)

New Business:

SAMHS Update, including

The SAMHS Budget for 2014-2015

SAMHS Efforts In Relation to Child Welfare Clients

Recovery Support Services: Potential Speaker Identified: Bruce Bevers, Ellsworth Recovery House for Women

Old Business

Goals for the coming year

Reviewing the Commission's List of Requests From SAMHS,

Disposal of Meds, Sharps and How to Reinvigorate This Service

Membership

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable

Pete will explore Bruce Bevers' availability for a presentation at an upcoming meeting (February or March)

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Cross State Office Building, Room 300

9 AM to 12 Noon

Adjourn Meeting: 10:20 AM